

Citizen Commandos

MidnightExpress

919th Special Operations Wing

Duke Field, Fla.

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Engine swap

Tech. Sgt. Joe Manard, 919th Maintenance Squadron engine technician, sits atop an MC-130E Combat Talon I in the crew chief hangar here March 6. One of the aircraft's four engines failed and Sergeant Manard is installing a new one. It takes approximately eight hours to remove and replace the turboprop engine. The 919th Special Operations Wing averages 30 engine changes each year, generating an average of 300 man-hours of in-shop work for each engine changed. Maintainers comprise more than 30 percent of the wing's work force. They, along with their active-duty counterparts, are responsible for maintaining Combat Talons and MC-130P Combat Shadows at home and at deployed locations. The Talons are a Reserve aircraft home-based at Duke Field; the Shadows are home-based at Eglin Air Force Base and belong to the 16th Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field.



Photo by Sandra Henry



Wing civil engineers get hands-on training in Croatia

See Pages 6-7



Services officer works for Iraqi human rights

See Page 8



Medical technicians practice on human simulator

See Page 12

STREET BEAT: What do you do to ensure safety either on or off the job?

"I try to stay informed about all safety related items and adhere to them. That's the only way you can get old."

Tom Huene
919th Special Operations Wing
financial management



"I use common sense! I analyze risks for my children before I turn them loose and have a healthy respect for potential hazards."

Tech. Sgt. M. Troy Barrow
919th Maintenance Squadron
aerospace ground equipment



"My car has a military sticker so I try to always be aware of my surroundings and potential threats. Sometimes I alternate my routes to work."

Tech. Sgt. Robbie McQuay
919th Medical Squadron
medical technician



"As a PE teacher, I try to eliminate hazards in the play area. I teach my students to be aware of surroundings and know where there are safe places to go."

Tech. Sgt. Keith Young
919th Maintenance Squadron
aerospace ground equipment



"Apply common sense, stay calm in a crisis, and go slow to go fast. Be prepared — accidents hurt, safety doesn't."

Maj. Rich Deemer
711th Special Operations Squadron
navigator



'101 critical days of summer' just around the corner

By Senior Master Sgt. Scott Eck
919th SOW Safety

As the weather turns warmer, most of us have already begun to plan our summer activities.

Schools will soon be closed, pools will be open, and beaches will be packed. People will be headed to their favorite vacation spot for some well-deserved relaxation.

Unfortunately, this time of year also heralds in the "101 Critical Days of Summer." It is a time when, traditionally, many Air Force members lose their lives in the pursuit of making the most of their leisure time. To avoid becoming a statistic this summer, there are some precautions to be taken:

⇒ First and foremost, utilize risk management techniques to identify and manage any hazards associated with your activities. This doesn't have to be a long, drawn-out process. Simply identify the hazards, list options to control the hazards, and implement the plan.

⇒ Know your limitations. Get adequate rest before starting any activity. Prepare yourself mentally and physically for the task at hand.

⇒ When operating your automobile, always wear your seatbelt. If you operate a motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle, always wear all of your personal protective equipment, and get properly licensed and trained.

⇒ Remember that alcohol does not mix with any recreational activity. Alcohol impairs judgment and reflex time.

⇒ When boating, always wear a life preserver. Before going out on the water, be sure to take an approved safe-boating course. If you jet ski, know how to safely operate your machine and where approved areas are for its use.

⇒ Use the buddy system when swimming. Never swim in unfamiliar waters or in areas where there is not a lifeguard.

⇒ During Fourth of July festivities, remember that fireworks are explosives and should only be handled by adults.

⇒ When cooking out, be sure to cook in a well-ventilated area away from flammable and combustible materials.

Always think through activities before you do them. By following a few simple guidelines, you can have a safe, enjoyable summer. Remember, safety sense is summer sense.

Did you know?

Drowning remains one of the leading causes of accidental death in every country of the world. A drowning occurs somewhere in the world every two minutes, with more than 250,000 every year. (Source: U.S. Lifesaving Association)



Photo by Sandra Henry

Database helps Airmen track fitness progress

By Chief Master Sgt. Matt Schmitt
919th SOW command chief master sergeant

Over the past few months, Air Force and wing leadership have stressed the importance of fitness and how the new fitness program focuses not just on fitness but a lifestyle change.

Now Reservists here have an opportunity to keep track of their fitness efforts by using a recently released Air Force tool, the Air Force Fitness Management System.

The system is available to all Airmen through the Air Force Portal. It provides a history of fitness scores and allows unit fitness managers to enter new scores. It is now the official method to track fitness progress within the Air Force.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Bickerton, the 919th Special Operations Wing fitness coordinator, said he is learning the new system. He will be the super user and will grant passwords to all Unit Fitness Program Managers. Their job will be to input the members' data into the system when a member completes their assessment. It will allow



Chief Schmitt

Sergeant Bickerton to generate quarterly reports to the wing commander.

When members go to the portal, they will see a heading for Air Force Fitness Management System Software. The system allows each member to see their fitness assessments, and track their progress so they can address their deficiencies or continue working on their strengths.

The data is not stored on paper in an Airman's record or even on a computer at an Airman's installation, but rather in an Air Force-wide database. This allows fitness scores to travel with Airmen automatically if they change duty locations.

Many units are still doing monthly practice assessments so Airmen can get themselves into shape for an official assessment. The system does not record practice assessments, but it does include a calculator allowing Airmen to enter in numbers from their practice assessments to see how they would score.

With this system, it should be easier than ever for all of us here to get fit and stay fit. I hope you are all working toward that goal.

For those of you who are struggling, just continue to go slow; progress will come, patience is key. *(From staff reports and Air Force Print News)*

Commander's FORUM

The Commander's Forum is your direct link to me for any questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Duke Field community.

To use the Forum, please e-mail me with your concerns at the address listed below. Items of general interest will be printed in the Midnight Express. As appropriate, some queries will be met with personal response.

Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly with the agency responsible. This gives the agency an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve its process.



Brig. Gen. Mark Stogsdill
919th SOW commander

919sow.midnightexpress@eglin.af.mil

Appreciation month begins here

By Brig. Gen. Mark Stogsdill
919th SOW commander

Millions of Americans have served in uniform since the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776. It is in their honor that Congress passed a 1999 resolution proclaiming May as National Military Appreciation Month.

The month includes Victory Day, Military Spouse Day, Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Day and Week, the National Day of Prayer, and Memorial Day. It recognizes those who gave their lives in defense of the nation's freedom and honors those Americans who have served their country and the men and women who now serve in uniform. It includes active duty, National Guard and Reserve, and all of their families.

One of those special days, Armed Forces Day, stemmed from the 1949 unification of the Armed Forces under one department — the Department of Defense. A major objective for the day was to educate civilians to increase their awareness of the Armed Forces. The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions and air shows.

In the spirit of that first Armed Forces Day, we at the 919th Special Operations Wing strive to educate our civilian community about our mission and the jobs we do here at Duke Field, Eglin Air Force Base, and around the world. One of the ways we do that is by scheduling appreciation days for our local leaders, reservist employers, the media, and our potential future military leaders — high school Junior ROTC cadets.

While Americans are honoring us during National Military Appreciation Month and special days during the month, we at the 919th SOW want to return the honor. We thank all those who took time out from their busy schedules to come to Duke and participate in our Appreciation Days April 29-30.

Again, we thank you for your support of our organization. Your prayers, letters, contributions and concerns, especially since activations in 2001, are an uplifting source of strength for us as we continue to fight the war on terror.

“With this system, it should be easier than ever for all of us here to get fit and stay fit.”

— Chief Master Sgt.
Matt Schmitt
Wing Command Chief

Job database key for understanding needs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Reservists from throughout the armed forces began registering their civilian places of employment for the first time with the Department of Defense March 31.

Called the Civilian Employment Information program, the registration is the first mandatory disclosure by the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve of their civilian employers into a common database.

"This information will be used to meet three different requirements defined by federal law," said Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command at Robins AFB. "During activations or presidential mobilizations, the Department of Defense needs to consider the impact on our civilian communities and ensure that reservists fulfilling critical civilian occupations are not kept in service longer than absolutely necessary. Also, we have an obligation to inform those civilians who employ reservists of their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act."

The Civilian Employment Information program culminates a yearlong effort to establish a Department of Defense-wide system to collect information and understand who employs the 1.2 million members of the reserve components.

Air Force reservists can enter their employer data by going to the new Defense Manpower Data Center Web site at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>.

"Our Citizen Airmen balance the demands of their military service with those of their

families and civilian employers," said General Batbie. "To make the Air Force mission a success, our reservists go above and beyond the commitments of civilian life. We want to make sure that their rights are protected and that they can return to their important civilian roles in our communities."

About 75,800 Air Force reservists train on full and part-time duty — ready for immediate tasking from higher headquarters. Since Sept. 11, 2001, about one in four Air Force reservists has been called up at some point. About 6,000 Air Force reservists are currently mobilized — on full-time, active-duty status by order of the president. Many other reservists volunteer to deploy worldwide for three months or longer missions.

According to Defense Department officials, the Civilian Employment Information database may be used to determine which units or reservists should be mobilized or de-mobilized first. Unlike previous military service efforts to voluntarily gather employer data, this new program is mandatory. Reservists and guardsmen who knowingly fail or refuse to provide their employment-related information, or provide false information, may be subject to administrative action or punishment.

"The Civilian Employment Information program is an extension of our reservists' personnel data records," said Col. Michael A. Cleveland, director of personnel for Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. "This means that the information is covered under previous privacy act systems and is

closely protected for official use only."

The new database is expected to be used by the Defense Department staff, the Joint staff, the military services staffs, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization and the Defense Manpower Data Center.

All services will provide unit commanders with compliance reports that will allow commanders to ensure subordinates have entered employer information to the database and that the information is being maintained on at least an annual basis.

"Each branch of the service is setting its own timeline to ensure that their reserve component members are entering their information," said Colonel Cleveland. "The final program goal is to have 95 percent of the Selected Reserve and 75 percent of the Individual Ready Reserve registered by the end of 2005."

After clicking on the Web site, reservists enter their employment status, employer's names, mailing addresses, civilian job titles and total number of years in their current civilian occupations.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve staff will not directly contact any employer about an individual reservist unless the reservist asks for assistance with an employer issue. However, ESGR will send general information to employers including surveys to determine employer attitudes as well as efforts to develop positive relationships with employers and support for reservists and guardsmen. (*AFRC News Service*)

Osprey visits Florida

A Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey lands at Hurlburt Field April 2 on its way to an air show at Eglin Air Force Base. Air Force Special Operations Command is expected to accept 50 CV-22s, an Air Force-modified version of the MV-22, starting November 2006. Designed to conduct long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply missions, the tilt-rotor aircraft offers increased speed and range over other rotary-wing aircraft and can perform missions that normally would require both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. (*AFSOC Night Flyer News Service*)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

Everyday hero: 919th radio operator earns award for heroic action

By 2nd Lt. Marnee A. Carlson
919th SOW Public Affairs

A 919th Special Operations Wing member's heroic action during a combat mission in Iraq last year earned him the Air Force Sergeants Association's Pitsenbarger Award for 2004.

Senior Master Sgt. Dale Berryhill's quick response May 19, 2003, to an in-flight fire aboard an MC-130E Combat Talon I supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom garnered him the honor.

The association gives the Pitsenbarger Award annually to an enlisted Airman for heroic acts, on or off duty, that save a life or prevent serious injury.

"It was a very bad day for everyone," said Sergeant Berryhill, a 711th Special Operations Squadron airborne communications and electronic systems specialist, commonly referred to as a radio operator. "But it could have been a whole lot worse. Fortunately, we had an experienced crew that night."

It was midnight when Sergeant Berryhill and his fellow crewmembers from the 711th SOS completed their mission. They were flying at 17,000 feet through Iraqi skies heading back to their home station in Kuwait. The aircraft was about 50 miles north of Baghdad when a 7-foot flame erupted from the manifold box near Sergeant Berryhill.

Within seconds, the aircraft's insulation and wiring bundles on the ceiling of the aircraft were ablaze.

While others were quickly donning their personal protective gear, Sergeant Berryhill jumped up without hesitation, grabbed the nearest halon fire extinguisher, and doused the flames while wearing no per-



Photo by Sandra Henry

Senior Master Sgt. Dale Berryhill, 711th Special Operations Squadron radio operator, sits at the controls during a training flight here earlier this year. He earned the Air Force Sergeants Association's Pitsenbarger Award for his quick reaction to a fire aboard an MC-130E Combat Talon I over Iraq May 19, 2003.

sonal protective gear.

The fire was near the oxygen converter. Everyone aboard the aircraft was worried about the possible deadly consequences of the fire reaching the converter, said Sergeant Berryhill.

"I just happened to be the guy that was the closest to the fire, and I knew I had to put it out," he said. "It was an automatic reaction. I was on autopilot at that point."

His actions ensured the safety of the crew and the aircraft, said Lt. Col. Kenneth Ray, 711th SOS commander, who nominated Sergeant Berryhill for the award.

Although Sergeant Berryhill

managed to extinguish the fire, the crew then had another problem to handle. The cargo compartment and flight deck of the aircraft were filled with smoke and toxic fumes, creating a dangerous situation.

"The whole airplane went to zero visibility," said Sergeant Berryhill.

Sergeant Berryhill said he felt the aircraft make a steep dive to get to a lower elevation so the back door could be opened to let the smoke out.

Once the aircraft had been aired out, the crew then diverted from their original plan to land in Kuwait. The crew headed right back into enemy territory

for the closest place to land — Baghdad International Airport.

As an airborne communications and electronic systems specialist, Sergeant Berryhill's job is to maintain all the tactical and airborne command and control communications. That night he relayed in-flight emergency calls. He successfully communicated with officials at the airborne warning and control system, Kuwait, and Baghdad International Airport informing them on the crew's situation and clearing their flight path for landing.

As the plane entered the outskirts of Baghdad, it drew anti-aircraft artillery attacks. Fortunately, the crew was able to divert the attacks and land safely on the taxiway, said Sergeant Berryhill.

Crash and fire personnel met the aircraft on the military side of the airport and evacuated the aircrew immediately. Later that morning, the aircrew caught a ride to Kuwait on another 711th SOS Combat Talon I.

A 24-year veteran of active-duty and Reserve service, Sergeant Berryhill is modest about his most recent achievement.

"I just did my job," he said. "There were nine other people on that airplane that night, and it took all of us doing something right to survive and get us all back safely."

Sergeant Berryhill is now authorized to wear the Air Force Recognition Ribbon. He will receive his award at the AFSA Honors Banquet scheduled for Aug. 25 in Columbus, Ohio. The award is named for Medal of Honor recipient William H. Pitsenbarger, a pararescueman who died treating and protecting wounded infantrymen when they came under intense enemy fire at an enemy stronghold near Saigon, Vietnam, April 11, 1966.

"I just happened to be the guy closest to the fire, and I knew I had to put it out. It was an automatic reaction; I was on autopilot at that point.

— Senior Master Sgt. Dale Berryhill
711th Special Operations Squadron radio operator

Duke civil engine

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Photos by Chief Master Sgt. Luther Mitchell

Seabees prepare lumber using a Navy portable sawmill. The Air Force and during the 919th CES deployment to Croatia, March 9 through April 10.



Master Sgt. Nick Agall, 919th Civil Engineer Squadron structural craftsman, secures the latrine building framework to the concrete slab during the squadron's deployment to Croatia.

ers team with Navy Seabees in Croatia

ase of Adriatic Phiblex 04, a Chairman, Chiefs of Staff directed and U.S. Navy cted training exercise in Croatia. The ex- involved the U.S. Navy and the seven- South-Eastern Europe Brigade (RIG), said Chief Mitchell. SEEBRIG's include the promotion and support of itarian operations, conflict prevention, her peace support operations. Other na- participating in the exercise are Albania, ia, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Romania, y and observers from Slovenia and the e.

Prime Beef and Seabee teams were bil- t a Croatian military training range just e the town of Slunj, said Chief Mitchell. worked with members of the Croatian mili- d civil service in getting the pre-exercise uction completed so that facilities could ct and house a team of multinational en- s who will complete other humanitarian ts as part of the exercise's second phase. hase includes bridge building, road con- on, and water-main replacement. e deployment provided a great opportu- ur us to sharpen our skills in an austere nvironment and build good relations e Navy Seabee team and the people of a," said Chief Mitchell.

"Our team rolled in about four weeks into the construction and made an immediate impact because of the many years of experience honed by construction deployments of our group dating back to Vietnam," said the chief.

The Seabees have a long and illustrious military-construction history dating back to World War II in the Pacific; but, being an active-duty unit, they lacked years of experience, he said. The average Prime Beef team member has more than 22 years of service and much of that in the civilian construction industry, he said.

"What the Seabee team lacked in experience was more than made up by their youth, enthusiasm, military bearing, and willingness to see the project completed," said the chief. "They were more than eager to learn from the more experienced Reserve craftsmen."

One of the deployed Navy Reserve members nicknamed the reservists "the geriatric squad," but said he was proud the reservists jumped right in and got the job done, said the chief.

That "job" presented many challenges and training opportunities for both teams.

Most of the projects were behind schedule due to incomplete pre-work that should have been completed before the teams arrived. Also, severe snow and ice storms periodically halted outdoor work. Once the weather eased up, the

crews worked around the clock in 12-hour shifts, said Chief Mitchell. Often working in deep snow and freezing weather, the teams were able to spread out the manpower and make use of all their resources and equipment.

Other major obstacles the teams encountered were interpreting Croatian drawings, dealing with suppliers in a country rebuilding after years of civil war, and the usual language barrier, said the chief.

After five weeks of working together, the teams completely rebuilt and refurbished two 150-person barracks, improved 8 miles of road-way, and nearly completed a supporting shower and bath facility.

Col. Hrvoje Papst, the Croatian base commander, said he was thankful.

"We are very pleased with the amount of work the American military is doing. It will serve us for many years," he said.

Just before the Prime Beef team departed, leadership from the two teams got together to trade coins and contact information in hopes that they would see each other again after they returned to the Gulf Coast.

After congratulating the Seabees for a job well done and wishing them luck on phase two, Major Ash turned to his Prime Beef team and said, "as usual - a job well done."



Courtesy photos

(Above) Capt. Reginald Johns, 919th Services Flight, escorts U.S. and British media aboard an Army helicopter to a memorial service in Halabja, a northern Iraqi village. The December service, just after the capture of Saddam, commemorated the death of 5,000 Kurds who died in 1988 from sarin gas attacks. Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of Saddam known as "Chemical Ali," is suspected of ordering the attacks. (Right) Captain Johns communicates with an Iraqi Kurdish boy at the December memorial. The candy they shared broke the language barrier.



Duke Services' officer works for Iraqi human rights

By Sandra Henry
919th SOW Public Affairs

A Duke Services' officer returned home in March after a seven-month assignment where he experienced bombings and gunfire daily in order to make a difference for the future generations of Iraq.

Capt. Reginald Johns, 919th Services Flight here, deployed in August as a mass grave coordinator in the Office of Human Rights and Transitional Justice aligned under the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. His tasking was to support the exhumation and repatriation of human remains and assist victim's families in the reconciliation process.

After two weeks on the job, Captain Johns was appointed as the deputy senior advisor to the newly announced Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, a position echelons beyond his pay grade, said Sandra Hodgkinson, a State Department lawyer working as

the director of the OHRTJ and the senior advisor to the Ministry of Human Rights.

The Ministry was established to address past human rights atrocities committed by Saddam Hussein's brutal regime and create a new Iraq that respects and protects fundamental human rights and dignity, said Ms. Hodgkinson.

Captain Johns said he and Ms. Hodgkinson both worked closely with Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, the civilian administrator of Iraq, and other supporting elements of the CPA to accomplish their duties.

Captain Johns assisted in the preparation of a \$15 million supplemental budget, said Ms. Hodgkinson. This money was earmarked for Iraqi human rights programs such as civic education, a mass grave action plan, documents and oral history database, establishment of a human rights commission, a truth and reconciliation commission, and a missing person bureau.

One of Captain Johns' great-

est accomplishments, said Ms. Hodgkinson, was helping the Ministry open a state-of-the-art facility in Baghdad. He assisted in selecting a site for the facility, negotiated the contracts and supervised the Iraqi contractor.

Just prior to Captain Johns' departure, the Ministry of Human Rights officially opened the doors to its new facility.

"In a country where as many as 300,000 people may be lying in mass graves – with countless others tortured – this facility will stand as a landmark to the Iraqi people that human rights and the rule of law have returned to Iraq," said Ms. Hodgkinson.

Through this Ministry, every Iraqi now has an opportunity to give their story of any atrocity that was committed by the former regime of Saddam Hussein, said Captain Johns.

"From a civilian perspective, I believe what we are doing is the right thing," he said. "Through working with families of people who have experienced extreme trauma through mutilations, tor-

ture and mass murders, we are promoting a culture that promotes respect for human rights in Iraq."

Setting up the Ministry, the staff, and the facility in such a short time to promote that change required an incredible amount of work, said Captain Johns.

"The operations tempo was extremely high for all of us — seven days a week, 14-16 hours a day," he said. "You learn more about yourself, your strengths, weaknesses and the actual amount of work you can accomplish."

The rewards of the Iraqi assignment, getting to know the people, their culture and helping them cope with their pain, will never be forgotten — nor will the daily experience of bombings, gunfire, mortars and rockets, said Captain Johns.

"I often thank the Lord for his watchful eye over me," he said. "Surviving those attacks would be enough to strengthen anyone's faith."

RECOGNITION

KUDOS

The 919th Security Forces Squadron, Combat Arms Section, applauds **Master Sgt. William J. Phillips**, 919th Maintenance Squadron, for shooting a perfect score, 40 out of a possible 40, on the M-16A2 Air Force Qualification Course.

Congratulations to **Master Sgt. Robin Connors**, 919th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and **Master Sgt. Keith Free**, 919th Civil Engineer Squadron, for their selection by the wing to receive the Air Force Association's Team Eglin All-Star Award. The semiannual award recognizes people who provide superior behind-the-scenes support on a daily basis. Sergeants Connors and Free were honored at a luncheon April 8 at Eglin Air Force Base.

Congratulations to wing members who earned an associate's degree this spring from Community College of the Air Force.

919th Special Operations Wing

Master Sgt. Leslie J. Bass

Staff Sgt. Lykia D. Lorenz

Senior Airman Charles R. Merritt

719th Maintenance Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Robert L. Whitaker

Senior Airman Joseph E. Cannon

919th Maintenance Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Paul M. Topp

Master Sgt. Doris D. Phillips

Tech. Sgt. William H. Piggott

Staff Sgt. Richard A. Couch

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey B. Huffer

711th Special Operations Squadron

Master Sgt. Rinda L. Ruppel

Tech. Sgt. Ginny M. Gregg

919th Medical Squadron

Master Sgt. Robert V. Turman

Staff Sgt. Karen M. Hutchinson

919th Civil Engineer Squadron

Master Sgt. Peter C. Webb

NEWCOMERS

919th Special Operations Wing

Airman 1st Class Erik R. Hofmeyer

711th Special Operations Squadron

Maj. James M. Phillips

919th Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jason B. Gainer

Airman 1st Class Joshua B. Rix

919th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Teria J. Sims

919th Maintenance Operations Flight

Senior Airman Tanisha N. Thornton

919th Civil Engineer Squadron

Maj. Hector Hernandez-Lopez

Senior Airman Corwin W. Fluit

Airman Charles A. Nard

919th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Airman 1st Class Michael A. Johnson

Airman 1st Class Lynett Pribble

919th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Ethan J. Williams

919th Services Flight

Tech. Sgt. Armand S. Minardo

919th Medical Squadron

2nd Lt. Francine S. Ricks

Staff Sgt. Jeremy T. Russell

8th Special Operations Squadron

Airman Steve Pressler

716th Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Brandon Herbert

Airman 1st Class Jean Santiago

PROMOTIONS

8th Special Operations Squadron

Staff Sgt. Michael Brock

Airman 1st Class Steve Pressler

Airman 1st Class Nickolas Hill

716th Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Michael Butler

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Ferguson

Staff Sgt. Crystal Malave

Staff Sgt. Brad Secord

Staff Sgt. Joshua Solorio

Staff Sgt. Rigel Ventura

Senior Airman Ronald Bacon

Senior Airman Daniel Burgess

Airman 1st Class Brian Mardy

Congratulations to the following wing captains selected for promotion to major (date of rank pending).

919th Special Operations Wing

Capt. Beena Maharaj

919th Operations Group

Capt. Steven Jones

711th Special Operations Squadron

Capt. Andrew Adams

5th Special Operations Squadron

Capt. Jeffrey Berry

Capt. Justin Townsend

Capt. Travis Zimmer

919th Medical Squadron

Capt. Kary Kutzler

Capt. Kurt Workmaster

Quarterly Award Winners - January through March

Outstanding Airman



Airman 1st Class Michael W. Taber
919th Operations Support Squadron
intelligence operations specialist

Outstanding NCO



Tech. Sgt. Flor Contreras
719th Maintenance Squadron
NCOIC, production control

Outstanding Senior NCO



Master Sgt. Richard C. Tyler
719th Maintenance Squadron
NCOIC, electronic warfare

Awards recognize outstanding contributions

WASHINGTON – Air Force Reserve Command is seeking nominees this spring for its Citizen Airman Awards and Employer of the Year Award.

The awards recognize both an enlisted reservist and an officer who deployed in support of current operations from January 2003 to January 2004. The employer award honors the person who strongly supported one or more of his or her Citizen Airmen during activation and deployment.

The Air Force Association will recognize the selected reservists and employer at its annual convention in Washington D.C. in September. The reservists will receive a command plaque. The employer will get an AFRC eagle trophy.

The awards program will pay the travel expenses of the employer and spouse. Units will fund the selected reservists' trips.

Nominations consist of a one-page narrative on standard 8 1/2-by 11-inch bond paper along with a biography of the nominee. The packages should explain the reservists' contributions to the Air and Space Expeditionary Force or contingency, and the employer's support of military members and the Air Force Reserve.

Nomination packages must be submitted to the 919th Special Operations Wing commander by May 24 for endorsement and forwarding to numbered air force. For additional information, people may contact Maj. Ray Porrata, 919th SOW executive officer, at 883-6314. (*AFRC News Service*)

Federal program assists civilians, family members

The Federal Occupational Health Employee Assistance Program is available at Eglin Air Force Base for 919th Special Operations Wing Department of Defense civilians and family members covered under the Eglin Civilian Personnel Office.

The goal of the EAP is to assist employees in resolving personal and work-related issues before those issues begin impacting one's work. EAP services include problem assessment, referrals for long-term assistance, short-term problem-solving counseling, wellness presentations and follow-up. Additionally, supervisors may call the EAP for management consultations regarding employee issues or coaching on how to refer an employee to the EAP.

EAP services are strictly voluntary and confidential. There is no charge. For an appointment, people may call the toll free number, 800-222-0364, anytime. Civilians, reservists and family members may log on to the FOH Web site at www.foh4you.com for general mental health and self-assessment information.



Photo by Sandra Henry

Sharp Troop

Senior Airman Yulonda Harkley, 5th Special Operations Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, tracks aircrew data on the Aviation Resource Management System March 30. Airman Harkley, an aviation resource management technician, joined the 5th SOS two years ago as a traditional reservist. She looks forward to spending her off-duty time this summer at the beach playing in the water and building sand castles with her 2-year-old. Airman Harkley is this month's Sharp Troop.

Travel cardholders have online-payment option

WASHINGTON – Airmen with government travel cards can now make payments to their accounts online.

The "MyEasyPayment" system allows Airmen with government travel cards to pay off residual or unexpected charges not covered by split disbursement payments.

Split disbursement of travel card payments is mandatory for military members and by default for civilians, but there are situations when the split-disbursed amount does not cover the total charges.

Airmen are required to use their government cards for airline tickets, hotels and rental cars for military travel. They may also use their cards to purchase meals and to get cash for incidental expenses.

When Airmen return from travel, they file a voucher so they can be reimbursed for their expenses. That payment, or disbursement, is split between the Airmen's personal-checking account and their travel-card account. Airmen are responsible for indicating how much money should be sent to the travel-card account. If there is a miscalculation of the amount owed, there can be residual or unexpected charges.

Airmen with questions about being reimbursed for unexpected or residual charges on their accounts should contact their military travel pay office. Travelers may need to file an amended travel voucher if they feel they are owed money.

The payment system is available at www.myeasypayment.com. To use the system, cardholders need to know the amount they want to pay on the card, the card's account number and security code, and their checking account and bank routing numbers. Cardholders can check their account balance by calling the toll-free number on the back of the card. (*Air Force Print News*)

Re-up time

Tech. Sgt. Chris Eichler (left), 919th Logistics Readiness Squadron here, was one of several members of the Eglin Air Force Base community who re-enlisted in April during a pre-show ceremony with the Air Force Thunderbirds.



Photo by Joe Piccorossi

AFRC announces command moves

Air Force Reserve Command announced April 8 several senior officer assignment actions. Two of those actions will affect the 919th Special Operations Wing. Brig. Gen. Mark Stogsdill, commander 919th SOW, will move to command the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., and Col. Mark A. Kyle, commander, 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland International Airport, Ore., will move to Duke Field to command the 919th SOW. Dates have not been announced.

May UTA paydates

The paydate for the May unit training assembly will be May 12 if the UTA pay system data is turned into the wing finance office before 8:30 a.m. the day after the UTA. If the data is received after 8:30 a.m., the pay date will be May 14.

Top 3 schedules speaker, movies

Chief Master Sgt. John Walker, 919th Special Operations Wing, will discuss the Unit Compliance Inspection process at the

Top 3 meeting 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Duke Theater. All master sergeants, senior master sergeants and chiefs are encouraged to attend.

Beginning with Saturday night of the June UTA and continuing every other UTA, the Top 3 plans free movie nights at the Duke Theater. More information will be available in the June Midnight Express.

For more information about the Top 3, people may access the 919th SOW Web site at <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/919SOW> and go to the Top 3 link.

Military Personnel Flight hours

MPF customer service hours for unit training assembly weekends are 12:30 to 4:15 p.m. Saturdays, and 7 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Sundays. The office is closed Saturday mornings to inprocess newcomers.

AFRC designates bonus AFSCs

Air Force Reserve Command designated bonuses for the following Air Force Specialty Codes for the period April 1 through Sept. 30: 1A3X1, radio operator; 2A6X4, air-

craft fuel systems; 2A5X3A, communications navigation; 2A5X3B, guidance and control; 2A6X6, aircraft electrical and environmental systems; 3P0X1, security forces; 1A2X1, loadmaster; 2A6X5, aircraft hydraulic systems; and 3E0X2, electrical power production. For more information, people may contact Master Sgt. Ann Jones, 883-6134.

Services plans volleyball tourney

The 919th Services Flight challenges others to participate in the May Volleyball Challenge. Teams will consist of three people, and it will be single elimination. Prizes will be awarded to first and second place teams. Anyone interested should sign up from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fitness center or at the dining hall on Saturday of the unit training assembly. The games will start at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the volleyball court.

TSP deadline is June 30

Thrift Savings Plan open season runs through June 30. For more information, people may contact 919th Mission Support Flight Customer Service at 883-6458

UTA Highlights

Newcomers need to report to the Military Personnel Flight, Building 3077, Room 209, for inprocessing.

The unit training assembly schedule for fiscal 2004 is **May 1-2, June 5-6, July 10-11, Aug. 7-8 and Sept. 11-12**. The schedule for fiscal 2005 is **Oct 2-3, Nov. 6-7, Dec. 4-5, Jan. 8-9, Feb. 5-6, March 5-6, April 2-3, May 14-15, June 4-5, July 9-10, Aug. 6-7 and Sept. 10-11**.

Time	Activity	Location	Point of Contact
Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.			
7:30 to 11 a.m., 1 to 3 p.m.	Immunizations (Yellow Fever 9 to 10 a.m.)	Building 3120	Capt. Dale Holt, 883-6377
8 a.m. to noon	NBCDT Refresher	Building 3025	Senior Master Sgt. Chris McKinley, 883-6484
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.	CCAF/GI Bill Counseling	Building 3002, Room 146	Master Sgt. Ron Dougherty, 883-6638
8:30 a.m.	Chief's Meeting	Building 3077, CC Conf. Room	Chief Master Sgt. Matt Schmitt, 883-6331
9 a.m.	Unit Deployment Manager Meeting	Building 3077, Room 5	Senior Master Sgt. Skinner, 883-6053
9 to 11 a.m.	Inspector General	Building 3021, Suite 1	Lt. Col. Michael Thomal, 883-6571
9:30 a.m.	First Sergeants Meeting	Building 3077, CC Conf. Room	Chief Schmitt
11:30 a.m.	Top 3 Meeting	Duke Theater	Senior Master Sgt. Scott Eck, 883-6723
12:30 p.m.	Sponsors pick up newcomers	Building 3077, Room 209	Tech. Sgt. Sybil McDowell, 883-6458
1:30 to 2:15 p.m.	Full Spectrum Threat Response Rep. Meeting	Building 3025	Sergeant McKinley
Sunday, 7 a.m to 3:45 p.m.			
7:15 a.m.	Catholic Service	Building 3002, Room 155	Chaplain, 883-6232
7:15 a.m. to noon	Military Equal Opportunity Training	Building 3077, Room 209	Maj. Grisel DeLeon 883-6718
8 a.m.	919 Mission Support Group Commander's Call	Duke Theater	Col. Deborah Inman, 883-6264
8 a.m.	Protestant Service	Pine Tree area	Chaplain
8 a.m.	End of Course Testing	Building 3002, Room 108	Sergeant Dougherty
8 a.m.	Drug Testing	Building 3014	Tech. Sgt. Johnson, 883-6377
8 a.m. to noon	Passports and Photos	Building 3077, Room 205	Master Sgt. Greg Paci, 883-6442
8 a.m. to noon	NBCDT Refresher	Building 3025	Sergeant McKinley
10:15 a.m.	UTA Staff and Planning Meeting	Command Post	Brig. Gen. Mark Stogsdill, 883-6316
1 to 3:45 p.m.	Supervisor Safety Training	Building 3077, Room 209	Sergeant Eck
2 p.m.	Quarterly Awards and Retirements	Duke Theater	Chief Schmitt

Medical technicians test skills on SimMan

Story and photo by Sandra Henry
919th SOW Public Affairs

He spends a lot of time just lying around the squadron, but he's not lazy, and he's certainly no ordinary dummy.

SimMan, a \$40,000 human simulator, arrived at the 919th Medical Squadron in September and was fully operational by February, said Staff Sgt. Leah Schneider, SimMan's "boss."

Sergeant Schneider, a 711th Special Operations Squadron independent duty medical technician here, is attached to the 919th MDS as the medical training coordinator. She said she tried for two years to get SimMan here for training purposes.

"He's the closest thing to an actual live patient the medical squadron can get," she said. "We can simulate with a live person, but the problem is that vital sounds and signs are not realistic because there is nothing wrong with the person," she said.

Now, the 50 or more doctors, emergency medical technicians, nurses and IDMTs assigned to the wing can poke, jab and practice on SimMan rather than having to use real people, said Sergeant Schneider. They can give SimMan vaccines and medications in the pads in his arms and thighs, practice tracheotomies to aid breathing, provide intravenous emergency rehydration therapy, and more.

During the training scenarios, SimMan responds through his computer system output with heart rhythms, lung sounds, vital signs, and verbal statements and



Staff Sgt. Leah Schneider, 919th Medical Squadron training coordinator, inserts an endotracheal tube down SimMan's throat so she can ventilate him. SimMan, purchased for \$40,000, would cost about \$100,000 complete with all available modules.

sounds, said Sergeant Schneider. He comes with prewritten scenarios, but simple programs can be added easily.

During the wing Survive to Operate exercise in March, Maj. Susan Eschete, a nurse at the 919th MDS, had an opportunity to work with SimMan, who was simulating a motor vehicle accident victim.

"We did everything that it takes to stabilize a patient as if they were admitted to a major trauma emergency room," said Major Eschete. "We can program SimMan to respond in the same way an actual patient would respond in a trauma situation."

Most of the emergency medical technicians at the 919th MDS don't work in the medical world outside of here, said Sergeant Schneider. Without adequate practice, they lose their skills.

"Being able to simulate a patient who has a fatal condition provides them with the training necessary to save real lives," she said.

And, SimMan is more than just a perfect patient, she added.

"He's my perfect man. He doesn't say much. He never complains, and he does exactly what I ask him to do."

Midnight Express

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To the family of: